



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 23, 2004

CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
MARVIN SMILON, HERBERT HADAD
MICHAEL KULSTAD
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600

FBI
JOSEPH A. VALIQUETTE
JAMES M. MARGOLIN
(212) 384-2715, 2720

NYPD
PAUL BROWNE
(646) 610-6700

LUCHESE ACTING BOSS
CONVICTED OF RACKETEERING AND MURDER

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, PASQUALE D'AMURO, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office of the FBI, and RAYMOND W. KELLY, the New York City Police Commissioner, announced today that LOUIS DAIDONE, 56, the Acting Boss of the Luchese Organized Crime Family of La Cosa Nostra, was convicted in Manhattan federal court on racketeering and loansharking charges that included two homicides.

According to the evidence introduced at trial, DAIDONE participated in the criminal activities of the Luchese Crime Family from the early 1980's up to at least January 2000. DAIDONE began as a Soldier, then rose to Acting Capo, Consigliere, and, most recently, Acting Boss of the Family. DAIDONE was convicted of two racketeering (or "RICO") counts,

which each included charges that DAIDONE participated in two homicides, the February 1989 murder of Thomas Gilmore and the August 1990 murder of Bruno Facciolo. The third racketeering act charged DAIDONE with participating in a long-term, wide-ranging loansharking conspiracy that involved the making of extortionate loans, the financing of those loans, and the collection of those loans by extortionate means. DAIDONE was found guilty of all three racketeering acts in both of the racketeering counts.

With respect to the Gilmore homicide, according to the evidence introduced at trial, DAIDONE and two Luchese associates stalked Gilmore until they found him alone outside his home in Queens, then ran up behind him and shot him in the head and neck. Regarding Facciolo, DAIDONE lured Facciolo to an ambush, where DAIDONE and two other members of the Luchese Crime Family stabbed and shot Facciolo to death. Then DAIDONE and the others placed a canary in Facciolo's mouth as a symbol to deter others who might cooperate with the authorities, and left Facciolo's body in the trunk of his car, parked on a Brooklyn street where it was discovered several days later.

Count Three charged DAIDONE with committing witness tampering by murdering Bruno Facciolo because Facciolo was suspected of cooperating with the authorities. The evidence at trial showed that the Luchese Family's suspicions about Facciolo were unfounded.

Counts Four and Five charged DAIDONE with being part of conspiracies to make "extortionate extensions of credit," and to

collect such extensions of credit, otherwise known as "loansharking."

DAIDONE was convicted on all counts, and faces a mandatory minimum sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. DAIDONE is scheduled to be sentenced before United States District Judge RICHARD M. BERMAN on April 28, 2004, at 2:30 p.m.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New York Police Department in conducting the investigation.

Assistant United States Attorneys KARL METZNER and DIANE GUJARATI are in charge of the prosecution.